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INFO RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0232  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0302  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/19/2016  
TAGS: [NATO](#) [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [AF](#) [IT](#)  
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: ITALY INCLINED TO SUPPORT DUTCH  
CANDIDATE FOR NATO SENIOR CIVILIAN REPRESENTATIVE

REF: STATE 97529

Classified By: ACTING POLITICAL MINISTER-COUNSELOR JONATHAN COHEN, REAS  
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(C/NF) We delivered reftel demarche seeking support for the U.S. candidate for NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan to Italian MFA NATO Office Director Gianni Bardini June 15. Bardini said Italy was already aware of the U.S. nomination, and that although Amb. Litt was clearly "an outstanding, very well qualified candidate," Italy would probably support the Dutch nominee. When we urged that every consideration be given to the U.S. candidate and ran through reftel points, Bardini explained that Italy had previously received a request to support the Dutch candidate, and believed that it would not be advisable for the U.S. to have three of the top four ISAF positions simultaneously (ISAF Commander, Deputy Commander and NATO SCR). This would, he said, project an image that ISAF was dominated by the U.S. rather than being run by NATO. Italy, he said, was in the process of deciding to support the Dutch candidate.  
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